

## **NOAA in the Carolinas Steering Committee Meeting**

**Date:** Thursday, January 22

**Time:** 10 AM until 2 PM

**Location:** NMFS - Beaufort, NC

Conference Room: top of the steps on the second floor of the admin building.

Parking: Visitor parking in front of the admin building. If that is full, park in the main lot just past the building.

**Con Call:** <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/528606021>

Phone number: 866 702 7489, Passcode 9225126

Meeting ID: 528-606-021

Meeting Attendees: Darin Figurskey, Aleta Hohn, Jennifer Dorton, Rich Bandy, Rebecca Ellin, Andy Shepard, David Evans

Con Call Participants: Jack Thigpen, Jeff Payne, Mike Voiland, John Feldt, Ginny Fay, Susan White

### **AGENDA:**

1. NOAA Coastal Integration Team conference call on climate change in the Carolinas – Jack & Jeff
  - a. The Coastal Integration Team is charged with coordinating programmatic responsibilities between multiple NOAA agencies (Sea Grant, OCRM, and NCCOS). Mike Liffman & Ruth Kelty in charge.
  - b. Focusing on near term opportunities for integration. Hazards is one of three opportunities identified as a possible integration project.
    - i. The group would like to host a Carolinas based workshop this Spring (possibly May 2009). The draft for the workshop includes sea level rise, inundation, climate and modeling activities in the Carolinas.
    - ii. Since there is so much activity right now in the Carolinas, the Integration team should not focus solely on modeling and, since there is so much academic activity in these areas, there is a need to bring in non-NOAA people into the group.
    - iii. Aleta mentioned that NOAA is changing a lot right now, so hosting this in the Spring might be more than we (NOAA orgs) can handle right now.
  - c. The Integration team could possibly partner with NinC to host the workshop on coastal hazards in the Carolinas.
    - i. Jeff will send e-mail with contact info for Bethany Ward, the rep for CSC.
  - d. Jennifer will set up con call with Mike and Ruth as well as NinC SC members - Rich Bandy, Bob Bacon, Rebecca Ellin and Aleta Hohn.
  - e. Possibly invite (via con call) to the Feb SC meeting.

## 2. SECART Updates

### a. Stakeholder Engagement Mini Grant Opportunity – Rich

- i. Proposals due Feb. 6. Up to \$25,000 and fund up to 5 proposals and are directed at the regional teams. Purpose is to engage stakeholders across the region.
- ii. Two criteria: proposals are to promote regional pilot project that engages stakeholders at the local level. Tie in how this project will benefit NOAA and NOAA goals.
- iii. Jeff will send out guidance on the proposal today.
- iv. General discussion on NinC applying for funds under this proposal opportunity.
  1. Could we apply for funds to support Jennifer to prepare for the workshop (i.e. compile background materials for the meeting), engage NOAA and non-NOAA groups for the meeting, and then coordinate the meeting.  
Problem: we need to decide right now what the meeting focus will be.
- v. Jeff said that while this is a good ideas, the RFP references the NOAA education plan which all proposals must tie into. The RFP also seeks “innovative” projects. The proposals must be for a projects that are more than the status quo way of doing business. We need to think about what we should do to address the minimum requirements. Can we do this in a way to accomplish a number of goals?
- vi. Aleta stated that the innovative part of an NinC proposal will be the outreach ahead of the workshop and a more structured workshop than has been done before. This will allow us to “hit the ground running” at the meeting.
- vii. It was noted that SECART will prioritize the submitted projects and put them forth, based on how they ranked.
- viii. Darin suggested that by applying for these funds for a workshop, we would need to change the theme of our workshop since we need to make it more stakeholder driven.
- ix. The discussion focused on our need to pick our topic and determine our stakeholders. We will need to work with stakeholders along the way. Then the breakout session may be more valuable as well.
- x. Rebecca noted that we might need to take a more long term approach to determining the NinC annual meeting outcomes? We have been hosting annual meetings on our own, but what is the next step that we need to take so that we can create something innovative that may have long term benefits.

- xi. Generally everyone thought that we need to have stakeholders at the center of the workshop for this to have funding traction.
  - xii. The Gulf Seagrass offices have worked in the Gulf to turn engagement strategies into ground breaking concepts. **Jeff will try to find documentation the Gulf activity and send around.**
  - xiii. **Jeff: Will send RFP & background docs (engagement strategy and NOAA engagement plan) out after this call.**
  - xiv. Once Jeff sends out documents we will need to follow-up via e-mail to determine next steps.
- b. SECART Coordinator – Jeff
  - i. Dr. Geno Olmi, NOAA CSC, hired as the new SECART Coordinator.
  - ii. 8 RT's were selected (one for each Region). These are permanent positions that will hold the teams together.
- 3. Discussion of Jennifer's contract – Jack (notes taken by Darrin Figurskey)
  - a. Mike- status of funding; contract for .44 FTE ends June 30, 2009 funded by SG and SECART (\$30k); is performance worth investment? Do we want to continue; NCSG and SECART do not have same resources; should we reduce position? Need to ask Jennifer; consensus is that position has been useful for allowing SC to participate in more visionary/collaborative activities; can we fund with more resources? Next meeting would be helpful; Susan suggested possibility of getting staff person at regional lab to help coordinate and perhaps reduce needed commitment; Jack suggested that Mike Liffman may be able to find funding to help cover Integration workshop planning costs; leverage from NinC—Jack will talk to Mike; SECART still has \$50k (need for Coordinator travel), may be able to free up a little (not \$15k)—perhaps \$5k, can SG find \$5k; perhaps expand role to helping NOAA in Caribbean; increase registration fee by \$25; NCX extend contract with UNCW; she could reduce current FTE (20% through Sep); NCSG can extend and reduce if needed; what duties are lost?
- 4. SE Hydro-Meteorological Testbed update – Darin
  - a. Did not get to this during the meeting.
- 5. Update on the EPA South Carolina meeting – Susan
  - a. Did not get to this during the meeting.
- 6. Plan for next NinC large group meeting – SC group discussion
  - a. Meeting topic focus
    - i. Susan noted that the EPA Coastal Carolinas initiative meeting hosted some stakeholder meetings in South Carolina. The results of public meetings noted that climate change was of low interest for coastal managers and the community

but impacts of climate change are of high interest. Additionally, there may be an opportunity to integrate EPA into the NinC annual meeting. There might be some additional support from the Coastal Society. Both groups are interested in building awareness of their conferences with the NinC group. We should think about including EPA and Coastal Society in our next meeting.

- ii. David mentioned that the challenge with a **climate** focused meeting is that it is long term issue but the stakeholders have much shorter time frames. We need to topics/issues that have a shorter term response to sea level rise.
- iii. Darin mentioned that he did not see the climate related impacts to ecosystems in the EPA notes. It's mostly numbers and quantifying the value of ecosystems instead of looking at climate impacts.
- iv. David mentioned that the science community knows what hurricanes do to ecosystems (e.g. how wetland loss have impacted Louisiana). We need to take these shorter term issues and relate them to climate change. Changes in river flow and water delivery are issues that we know about and will be impacted by climate change.
- v. The meeting audience is NOAA and NOAA partners. Many of these groups are trying to figure out their niche in the climate change research/work. There could be value in having a discussion on how each of the NOAA agency and partner programs are addressing climate change. This would help build an understanding of who is doing what. Then use this collective information to then move forward on a project.
  - 1. We can also obtain information such as described above while doing the pre-meeting groundwork for the meeting. We can have a poster session at the meeting that can also help with this.
- vi. Darin mentioned the need to keep our focus on the Carolinas and how impacts of climate change (or any other meeting topic) are affecting the Carolinas. Additionally, we can't cram the agenda so full of stuff that people don't have the opportunity to meet/talk at the meeting.
- vii. We then discussed the need to have a "laser focused" meeting. Starting point is to have someone speak on the focus area (has to have an ecosystem connection). Bring in the people ahead of time to help us define the laser focus for the region. Find the right goal team and the right person from the goal team to help with the meeting agenda.
- viii. The next idea was to focus on **hazards**. It was noted that this is as broad of a topic area as climate change.

- ix. Andy suggested talking to NOAA goal team leads to find out what stands out to them so that they can help us determine the meetings focus. Example: big issue for Hollings Marine Lab is human health.
- x. David noted that after Katrina there is a focus on resilience post catastrophic weather events. This is related to people and ecosystems.
- xi. Hypoxia is also a big topic with NOAA right now.
- xii. If we choose a topic, we need to build our discussion around a conceptual model. This approach allows people to find a home at different places within the conceptual model. Choose a theme that allows this to happen so that a broad group of people are allowed to come in to the meeting.
- xiii. David asked about reviewing the preliminary results of the SAARP survey that was sent out by SEAGRANT. These results may help us identify research priorities.
- xiv. Rich noted the need to look for subjects that have a large economic impact which allows for more stakeholder buy-in.
- xv. Darin recapped some of the projects that we have looked into so far: Long Bay Hypoxia, CICEET award (NERRs is an awardee on this one), and the NOAA Coastal Integration Team projects.
- xvi. The SC can possibly narrow down the meeting focus and provide guidance to people who want to submit project ideas. Ecosystem services is a big thing with NOAA right now.
- xvii. Rich mentioned that inundation is a big issue due to hurricanes and inundation. Long term is SL rise. Short term is effects of the storm.
- xviii. Aleta mentioned tying in CI FLOW and HMT SE. The problem is the lack of a coastal focus.
- xix. Goal of meeting is to find a tangible project, grassroots/bottom up initiative.
- xx. David mentioned that we need to find something that will look at the environment interface between water (oceans and freshwater), lands and atmosphere.
- xxi. Long Bay Hypoxia: connections to weather, physical oceanography, fisheries, etc.
  - 1. David: hypoxia is the result. What are the drivers for the hypoxia?
- xxii. Jennifer: Send out SAARP preliminary results to group for review. This will provide a preliminary assessment that we should review and use for guidance.
- xxiii. Susan: See if Christine Laporte (SAARP coordinator) can call in to our next meeting.

1. Try to set up a con call with Christine, Darin, Susan, Aleta, Rebecca and Jennifer. Set up by next week.

xxiv. Habitat Loss

1. Ties into inundation, SL rise, and climate as well.
2. Outcome of program: Mitigation and restoration activities, innovative approaches.
3. Stakeholders: fishermen, ecotourism industry, resources managers

Andy's board notes – criteria for targeting a new regional initiative:

Cross goal team

Cross line offices

Regional relevance

National relevance

Cost/Feasibility

Transition application (expandable to other regions)

b. Dates – primary and alternative, Fall 2009

- i. Need to check with the rest of the steering committee to see any conflicts with the first week or two of September. Stay away from Friday. Go for a Tuesday through Thursday.
- ii. Have tours at Fort Johnson also.

c. Logistics

- i. Location – Ft. Johnson Marine Campus has been chosen as the meeting site.
  1. From Susan - Ft. Johnson Marine campus for Sept & Oct and this far out its really pretty wide open in terms of availability. SC DNR Auditorium (sits ~130) and is open. Indoor breakout conf rooms sitting, 30-40, and another with space for 6-10 people are also open. I didn't check all the rooms that would be available (add'l breakout rooms here at HML, auditoriums here at HML and CCEHBR, add'l breakout rooms at DNR, the outdoor classroom (for meals/etc at DNR) but it appears that with enough lead time we should be able to book these without problem. HOWEVER--I would highly recommend that we settle on a date (or 2) to reserve space, etc and get this settled before too long.
- ii. Plan for a max of 120 people.
- iii. Duration: 2 full days of meetings with reception night before.

- iv. Meeting planning team members: Jennifer Dorton (until June), Susan White, Aleta Hohn, Scott Cross (*Susan will ask Scott*).
- v. Planning team will work with CSC folks to help with registration, food, meeting organization, booking hotels, etc. *Jennifer: talk to Jeff about this option and who might be available to help at CSC.*
- vi. Have a “save the date” announcement sent out by Feb.
  - 1. *Jennifer send e-mail to SC members and determine which dates for meeting work best, think of potential conflicts with other meetings.*
  - 2. Announcement may not have the topic, but we can at least get the date out and tell people more details are forthcoming.
- 7. Raleigh Boat show Feb 20-22. Set up on the 19<sup>th</sup>. Do we want to have info at the show?
  - a. Both NWS and NCSG are hosting a booth.
  - b. Send any info that you want to Darin (posters, flyers, etc).
    - i. NOAA National Weather Service  
Centennial Campus NCSU  
1005 Capability Dr.  
Research Building III, Suite 300  
Raleigh, NC 27606
  - c. Rebecca: NERRs might have some clean marina materials that can be sent out.
- 8. Next NinC newsletter topics – ideas from the group
  - a. Wait until next month, after we have a better idea of the NinC meeting focus and desired outcomes.
- 9. Website – next feature group: NMFS
  - a. *Aleta will send Jennifer stories and photos.*
- 10. Next meeting – March 3 (tentative meeting) at NCSG
  - a. Give option of 3/3 or 3/4
  - b. Next meeting will be to narrow the focus of the fall meeting so we really need SC involvement.

#### **SEPTEMBER 2009**

7-11 September 2009: [6th International Conference on Coastal Dynamics](#), Tokyo, Japan  
 9-11 September 2009: [Water Resources Management 2009](#), 5th International Conference on Sustainable Water Resources Management, Malta  
 16-18 September 2009 – Hurricane Floyd Conference, East Carolina University  
 13-17 September 2009: [2009 International Conference on Ecology and Transportation](#), Duluth, Minnesota  
 14-16 September 2009: [3rd International Conference on Estuaries & Coasts](#), Sendai, Japan  
 16-18 September 2009: [Coasts, Marine Structures and Breakwaters 2009](#), Edinburgh, Scotland  
 21-23 September 2009: [Northeast Beaches Conference](#), Woods Hole, Massachusetts *New!*

**SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER 2009**

30 September - 2 October 2009: [CoastGIS '09](#), the 9th International Symposium on GIS and Computer Cartography for Coastal Zone Management, Santa Catarina, Brazil **New!**  
"Oceans 2009" in Biloxi, Oct 27-29

Moja Festival

September 25 through October 5, 2008  
(843) 724-7305

Scottish Games & Highland Gathering

September 20, 2008

Boone Hall Plantation

(843) 552-2563, (843) 883-3889

Folly Beach Moonlight Mixers - Shaggin' on the Pier

September 12, 2008

Folly Beach Edwin S. Taylor Fishing Pier

(843) 795-4386